

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01393 260542Z  
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15  
STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01  
/088 W

-----260652Z 049888 /23

R 151620Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2764  
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 1393

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: EAGR, CZ  
SUBJECT: SOYBEAN MEAL: DISCREPANCY BETWEEN U.S. AND CZECHOSLOVAK  
TRADE STATISTICS

AGRICULTURE FAS FOR REP AND STAT

1. DURING DISCUSSION WITH KOOSPOL OFFICIALS (SEE SEPTTEL),  
AGATT OBTAINED HERETOFORE UNPUBLISHED FIGURES ON CZECHOSLOVAK  
SOYBEAN MEAL IMPORTS. (CZECHOSLOVAK SOYBEAN MEAL IMPORTS ARE  
INCLUDED IN PUBLISHED TRADE STATISTICS UNDER HEADING "OTHER FORAGE"  
WHICH INCLUDES SIZEABLE QUANTITIES OF GROUND NUT AND OCCASIONALLY  
OTHER VEGETABLE OIL MEALS.)

2. ACCORDING TO THESE FIGURES CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1975 IMPORTED  
A TOTAL OF 512,000 MT SOYBEAN MEAL OF WHICH 324,000 MT CAME  
FROM THE U.S. (WHILE THE REST FROM BRAZIL). IN 1976 TOTAL  
SOYBEAN MEAL IMPORTS REACHED 542,000 MT OF WHICH 346,000 MT (OR  
\$50 MIL) CAME FROM THE U.S. IN CONTRAST U.S. TRADE RUNS SHOW  
THAT EXPORTS OF SOYBEAN MEALS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1975 WERE  
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ONLY 129,000 S.T. (ABOUT 117,000 MT), WHILE IN 1976 ONLY  
197,000 S.T. (ABOUT 179,000 MT). ON THIS BASIS IT APPEARS THAT  
U.S. EXPORT STATISTICS TENDED TO UNDERESTIMATE AGRICULTURAL  
EXPORTS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY ABOUT \$18 MIL IN 1975 AND \$25  
MIL IN 1976.

3. KOOSPOL AT LOSS TO EXPLAIN THIS DISCREPANCY AND FELT QUITE

SURE CZECHOSLOVAK FIGURES WERE ACCURATE. THESE ARE BASED ON  
BILL OF LADING WITH POINT OF ORIGIN U.S.A.

4. COMMENTS: IT IS WELL KNOWN U.S. TRADE STATISTICS INVOLVING  
LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES SUCH AS CZECHOSLOVAKIA OFTEN UNDERESTIMATE  
EXPORTS TO THESE COUNTRIES BECAUSE OF TRANSSHIPMENTS. THIS  
TENDS TO CREDIT EXPORTS TO COUNTRIES WHERE TRANSSHIPMENTS TAKE  
PLACE, IN THIS CASE GERMANY. THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS DISCREPANCY  
HOWEVER HAS SELDOM BEEN FULLY EXPLAINED OR APPRECIATED.

5. IT IS OF INTEREST TO NOTE THAT SUCH DISCREPANCY BETWEEN  
U.S. AND CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE STATISTICS IS LARGELY LIMITED TO  
SOYBEAN MEALS. DURING DISCUSSING WITH KOOSPOL ON THE SAME SUBJECT  
COMPARISONS OF U.S. EXPORT TRADE RUNS ON GRAIN TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
AND CZECHOSLOVAK IMPORT STATISTICS ON GRAIN FROM U.S.  
REVEALED PRACTICALLY NO DIFFERENCES IN 1976.  
BYRNE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** SOYBEAN MEAL: DISCREPANCY BETWEEN U.S. AND CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE STATISTICS AGRICULTURE FAS FOR REP AND STAT  
**TAGS:** EAGR, CZ, US  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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